

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66604

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:GLG

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

S/S-O:PJOHNSON

NEA:ESWALKER

----- 078198

R 170935Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T STATE 115849

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON FROM
AMMAN 15 MAY 75:

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 3237

XDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, JO, MU

SUBJECT: UK-JORDAN DIFFERENCES OVER OMAN

1. AT AIRPORT, JUST PRIOR TO KING'S RETURN MAY 14, UK COLLEAGUE
TOLD ME THAT KING FAILED TO MENTION HIS CONCERNS IN LONDON OVER
UK ROLE IN OMAN. BRITISH IN AMMAN SAY THEY ARE FED UP WITH
JORDANIANS, SINCE KING LIBERALLY LACED INTO AMBASSADOR HERE ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS ON UK FAILURE TO PROSECUTE WAR, AND INDEED ON
JORDANIAN ALLEGATIONS OF UK MALEVOLENCE IN OMAN, SUBSTANCE OF
ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT MANY REPORTS FROM US. BRITISH
PREPARED SPECIAL MEETING WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON AND NUMBER
SPECIALIST ADVISORS TO EXPLAIN TO HIM FACTS OF LIFE ABOUT
OMAN, BUT JORDANIANS NEVER RAISED THE ISSUE. APPARENTLY,
HOWEVER, PM RIFAI WAS TALKED TO "ON THE SIDE" BY SOME UK OFFICIALS
SECRET

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AND GIVEN THEIR VIEW OF THE SITUATION. UK AMBASSADOR DID NOT
PASS ON DETAILS, OTHER THAN TO SPECULATE THAT JORDANIAN
EFFORT MIGHT WELL BE PLOY TO COVER EARLY REMOVAL OF JORDANIAN
SPECIAL FORCES BATTALION WHICH UK EMBASSY IN AMMAN BELIEVES

PRIME MINISTER MAY WANT TO PULL BACK BECAUSE OF LOCAL CRITICISM
IF ITS DEPLOYMENT. I INDICATED THAT IN OUR VIEW SUCH CRITICISM
HAD RECENTLY DIED DOWN AND THAT JORDANIANS SEEMED TO BE MORE
INTERESTED IN FIGHTING THE BATTALION THAN IN PULLING IT BACK.

2. RECALL THAT AS RESULT OF WASHINGTON MEETINGS, JORDANIANS ARE
UNDER IMPRESSION THAT WE MIGHT RAISE THE QUESTION OF THEIR
PROBLEMS WITH UK ROLE IN OMAN WITH BRITISH DURING THEIR
WASHINGTON VISIT LAST WEEK. NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT KING WILL ASK
ME WHETHER WE DID INDEED RAISE ISSUE AND WHAT WAS OUTCOME.
WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION ON WHETHER QUESTION WAS
RAISED AND IF SO WHAT WAS RESULT.

3. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT TO MUSCAT. PICKERING UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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